



For immediate release
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Umatilla Public Information Group

Mary Binder
Umatilla Chemical Depot
541-564-5312

mary.binder@umcd-emh1.umcd.army.mil

Mark Clemens
Washington State
Emergency Management
253-512-7006
m.clemens@emd.wa.gov

Jim Hackett
Umatilla Chemical Depot
541-564-5418
james.s.hackett@us.army.mil

Maureen Roxbury
Morrow County
Emergency Management
541-481-3424
maureen@csepp.org

Steve Sautter
Benton County
Emergency Services
509-628-8470
s.sautter@bccs.wa.gov

Cheryl Seigal
Umatilla County
Emergency Management
541-966-3703
cheryl.seigal@csepp.net

Jesse Seigal
Federal Emergency
Management Agency
425-487-4797
jesse.seigal@dhs.gov

Umatilla travel remains safe

As chemical agent disposal begins at the Umatilla Chemical Depot, current preparedness plans still apply for travelers to, and through, the surrounding area

(Hermiston, Oregon)—With incineration of chemical warfare agents set to begin soon at the U.S. Army's Umatilla Chemical Depot, emergency management agencies in the surrounding area have a message for people planning to travel to, or through, the Umatilla area on business or vacation: "Our current public safety plans will continue to keep people safe—including travelers from outside the area—in the unlikely event of a chemical emergency at the Depot."

People living and working in the emergency zones immediately around the Depot have received extensive public education about how to protect themselves if there is a chemical emergency at the Depot. People at home or work in the emergency zones in Umatilla and Morrow counties in Oregon would be advised to shelter in place, while people in the zones in Benton County, Washington, would be advised to evacuate.

An extensive alert and notification system would be used to quickly warn travelers and provide emergency instructions, including detour routes, in the unlikely event of a chemical emergency at the Depot.

- **Stay tuned**—The simplest thing for travelers to do when they're in the Umatilla area is dial into a local radio station. News of any emergency will be broadcast immediately. Primary emergency stations are KONA AM 610, and KONA FM 105.3 out of Pasco, Washington; and KUMA FM 107.7 out of Pendleton, Oregon.
- **Electronic highway reader boards** on the highways heading into the emergency zones around the Depot would warn motorists of the emergency. In Benton County, Washington, the boards are located on Interstate 82 near the Tri Cities and Prosser; and on State Route 14 along the Columbia River. In Umatilla and Morrow counties, Oregon, boards are on Interstate 84 west of Boardman and east of Hermiston. The huge reader boards would advise motorists to detour around the area.
- **Highway advisory radio signs**—located close to the electronic highway reader boards in both states—would direct motorists to an official radio frequency for emergency instructions.
- **Warning sirens**—Just like people living and working in the immediate vicinity of the Depot, travelers would be warned of an emergency by sirens in the Oregon and Washington emergency zones, and along both sides of the Columbia River. Three-minute wailing sounds would indicate an emergency was underway, followed by voice instructions over siren loudspeakers.
- **EAS**—In the unlikely event of a chemical emergency at the Depot, emergency warnings and official instructions will be broadcast within minutes by local radio and television stations over the Emergency Alert System (EAS). As mentioned above, travelers who stay tuned to local radio stations will hear the news just as soon as everyone else in the area.

For more information

For **incineration** updates—**1-888-866-5928**

For questions about **preparedness**, call the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP). In Oregon, call—**1-877-367-2737**.

In Washington, call —**1-800-841-7953**.

On the Internet—**www.csepp.net**

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